

III. 24 Jan 77

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
EAST EUROPE

CEMA ECONOMIC AID HELPS CUBA'S DEVELOPMENT

*Cuba*

Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1600 GMT 21 Jan 77 LD

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance has held its regular session in Havana, Cuba. Our observer Yuriy Shalygin comments:

For the first time the council's Executive Committee met in the capital of the youngest council member. This naturally aroused specific interest in the session in Cuba and in other socialist countries. Geographically Cuba lies far away from any of the socialist countries, but, as the Cuban leader Fidel Castro has stressed repeatedly, Cuba never felt isolated. The many thousand-miles-long bridge of friendship functions uninterruptedly. Close and diverse are Cuba's comradely contacts with other countries of the socialist community. That point was restated at the committee's session, which laid particular emphasis on Cuba's economic cooperation.

Here are some figures to illustrate the scale of this cooperation: 123 industrial and other facilities operate on Cuba. They have been reconstructed or built with the help of Soviet experts. The Soviet Union is helping Cuba develop its oil, power, iron and steel and other key industries. When taken as a whole, the council countries have assisted in building or replanning over 200 economic facilities in Cuba. Among major projects the council countries are working on at present in Cuba there are several big nickel factories. These factories, when put into operation, are to make Cuba a leading nickel deposit processor and producer.

At the Havana meeting ways were discussed for promoting Cuba's cooperation within the framework of the organization. The Cuban side stressed the exclusive importance of this cooperation for Cuba's economic development. From the meeting's final document it is evident that the council is aiming at narrowing the gap in the industrial development of Cuba and other council countries.

The council countries see the purpose of their cooperation in the intensive and harmonious development of national economies. This purpose is laid down in the organization's charter. It makes the backbone of the long-range integration program that the council countries have collectively adopted. So far there is a difference in economic levels of various council countries. It was not easy at all to do away with economic backwardness of certain council countries, inherited from the old systems. By helping one another the socialist countries succeed in levelling up steadily their economic potentials. An integration program, for example, lays much emphasis on bending the collective effort in facilitating Mongolia's economic growth. The socialist community countries also see their internationalist duty in securing a speedy development of Cuba's economy. The task was reaffirmed at the Havana meeting of the council's Executive Committee.

*21 Jan 77 from CEMA Havana Moscow*

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WEST EUROPE & CANADA

GENSCHER'S VISIT TO W. BERLIN PROVOKES GDR PROTEST

Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 21 Jan 77 LD

[Text] Berlin, January 21, TASS--Taking advantage of the visit of Louis de Guiringaud, the French foreign minister, to West Berlin, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the FRG foreign minister, staged a demonstrative appearance in that city. In his official capacity he attended a special session of the West Berlin Assembly of Deputies and other events, the ADN Agency reports.

In this context, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the GDR stated that the demonstrative appearance of the FRG foreign minister in West Berlin i.e. beyond the state territory of the FRG, was another attempt by authoritative circles of the Federal Republic illegally to regard West Berlin as one of the FRG lands. Such designs obviously run counter to the provisions of the quadripartite agreement on West Berlin, mandatory in international law, according to which West Berlin is no integral part of the FRG and cannot be administered by it.

Such illegal activity of the FRG foreign minister must be condemned because it can but negatively affect the process of relaxation of tension and prejudice the positive results achieved thanks to the quadripartite agreement of September 3d, 1971, especially for West Berlin.

The GDR Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that the joint efforts of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries were aimed at consolidating the political status of West Berlin, recorded in the quadripartite agreement.

Taking this as point of departure, the GDR will facilitate the consistent repulsion of any attacks on this agreement. It expects that the FRG will strictly adhere to the quadripartite agreement, because this is the only way for the accord to play its part, which is so important for peace in Europe.

BONN'S HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GDR INCREASES

Moscow in German to Germany 1611 GMT 23 Jan 77 DW

[Gennadiy Sidorov commentary]

[Text] Those circles in the FRG which come out against the development of normal, good neighborly relations with the GDR have become visibly more active lately. They are increasingly trying to interfere in GDR internal affairs, and the hostile campaign against the socialist republic is becoming more and more massive. GDR foreign and domestic policies and its laws are being attacked in speeches by FRG politicians and in FRG information organs. The West German opposition is particularly zealous in this respect. Direct threats against the GDR and appeals to put economic and political pressure on the GDR are coming from its ranks. At the same time it must be stated, unfortunately, that representatives of the FRG Government coalition also do not always project a realistic attitude toward the development of relations.